

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated August 20, 2004.

This amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. No new matter or considerations are raised by this amendment. Claims 3, 12, and 14 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. The amendment to claims 3, 12, and 14 is supported by claim 1. Claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 27, and 29 were amended to correct dependencies in view of the cancellation of claim 1. New claim 36 is supported by claim 11. The amendments to the specification correct informalities.

Claims 2-4, 7, 8, and 11-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 11, 27, 29, and 31 have been rejected. Claims 2, 16-26, 28, 30, and 32-35 have been withdrawn. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 27, and 29 have been amended in this response. Claims 1, 6, and 9 have been canceled in this response. Claims 5 and 10 were previously canceled. New claim 36 has been added.

Specification

The specification was objected to because of several informalities. These objections are traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. As correctly understood by the Examiner, and as is well understood by one of ordinary skill in this art, PVD means physical vapor deposition. The specification has further been amended to include the definition of CVD, which is chemical vapor deposition, as is clearly understood by one of ordinary skill in this art. As the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, Applicants submit that the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to as being of improper dependent form. This objection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. This objection is moot as claim 6 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 12-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In accordance with the Examiner's recommendations, claims 3, 12, and 14 have been rewritten in independent form, and are thus allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 4, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Borglum et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,139,985).

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borglum et al. in view of Schroeder et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4,957,673).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borglum et al. in view of Badding et al. (U. S. Pub. App. No. 2001/0044041).

Claims 27, 29, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borglum et al. in view of Nishioka et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,543,241).

These rejections are traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, and 9 have been canceled. Claims 4, 9, 7, 8, 11, 27, 29, and 31 all depend from claim 3. Claim 11 depends from claim 12. Claims 3 and 12 are allowable, as they have been rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation.

Therefore, claims 4, 9, 7, 8, 27, 29, and 31 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Likewise, new claim 36 should be allowed as it depend from allowable claim 14.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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